

The Thing to be Done.

A lawyer of eminence and a slave-holder says:

"To your propositions, legalizing the marriage of colored persons, and forbidding the separation of families, I have no objection to make; I think they are right, and independent of all questions about slavery, ought to be carried out."

And such, we venture to say, is the opinion of nine out of every ten slave-holders. None can doubt the good which must result to master and man if they are adopted. Why not, then, urge the Legislature to act on the subject? Why cannot the Church speak out here? We hope these propositions will be brought before our legislature—and that slave-holders there will be the first to support them.

The Thing to be Undone.

And that is, to get people to speak out, not their thoughts, but their own, on the subject of slavery. Is it right? Nobody says so hereabouts. Does it pay? Every body admits it does not. Why then make the State a sort of deaf and dumb Asylum on this great matter?

A letter before us declares "a majority in our country are for emancipation." Well, have they no tongues? Are they mutes? We have this assurance from many quarters of the State. Yet pro-slavery men are afraid to do any thing least they may rouse a host, and anti-slavery men are afraid to do any thing lest they should create mischief. Let us away with this fear! Let us break up this unmanly timidity, and discuss fairly and above board the great question.

It is So.

A slave-holding friend, well acquainted with the South, said to us the other day: "You are in error in saying, that the positions of Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Dallas, and Gen. Cass, will not be satisfactory to the South—they will be." Well, the leading Southern papers—the Charleston Mercury, Savannah Georgian, &c., have spoken, and they assail them as resolutely as we do the positions of the most ultra.

We shall try and publish their remarks next week.

Nor do we blame them. If it be their right, under the law, for any Southern to take his slave into whatever territory the Union holds, the Southern States should not submit, for a moment, to any attempt at its overthrow. The pretence that slavery cannot exist there, is absurd and contemptible—absurd, because planters, and the country know better as regards the lower or South-western portion of the territory we now hold, and contemptible, because those who offer this as a reason for the acquisition of territory affect, at the same time, to believe that the Union is settled as they desire, the Union will be dissolved.

Do politicians take Southern men to be fools? Do they think them blind to interest, and the plainest deductions of reason? If the Constitution gives them the right to go, with their slaves, on the Rio Grande, they will go, and no power can prevent it; if the Constitution forbids, they will submit, whatever may be said to the contrary by lawless, or angry threateners of the Union.

Education.

We must press this subject. There is a general desire, everywhere, to do something effective with regard to it, but, at the same time, a general fear that nothing can be done. Fling doubts to the winds! We have the power to make a great beginning—to establish a well derived and thorough system, and what is more, the means to carry it on and force it through.

We stated last week what New York had effected for her common schools, and with a fund, in comparison no larger than ours. Let the following table speak for itself—

	Kentucky.	New York.
School fund,	\$1,221,819	2,175,514 47
No. of Children between 5 and 16,	85,432	700,442

Why, our fund is the largest! Taking the proportion of children to be taught, by far the largest! And then look at the number of all ages who attend the common schools of New York! Last year it was 748,387, exceeding those between the ages of 5 and 16 by 47,934! How is it in Kentucky? Who can answer this question without a pang?

True, her position, in some respects, is better. True, also, that she is free from one terrible difficulty which besets us. But the great success of the common schools in Louisville, proves that the State has only to take hold of the subject in earnest to insure success in all parts of it.

There is no doubt about the right of every man to be instructed. Not that he must seek instruction for himself—not that he should go out of the way to get it—we mean nothing of the kind, however strong the individual obligation may be upon one and all to do this. We mean that the State should put the means of education within every man's reach, and see to it, that her children are taught to read and write. And especially must this be the case, when the State has, as ours possesses, a fund—a sacred trust—which, if rightly applied, and wisely managed, would accomplish this great end!

The character of a Commonwealth is every thing to her. And what constitutes that character? Intelligence and virtue. It may possess other and great qualities; it may have courage, and all the physical attributes in the highest perfection; it may be noted for generous impulse and a warm patriotism; but if it lack these, it cannot occupy an elevated or commanding position. Who at home, likes to hear it said of a State, that one-seventh of its voting population cannot read the Bible, or the written charter of our common liberty? Who, abroad, when hearing such a fact declared, of any Commonwealth, can associate with it greatness, or those higher qualities of mind, and soul, which give perpetuity to human happiness?

Nor will it do, in reply, to point to distinguished statesmen or lawyers, or divines. We should rejoice to have such. It is a good and glorious sign to see and hear them in any State. But how fares it with the masses—how is it with those who know not how to care for themselves, and who, if they did, possess no means to advance their own moral and mental culture? This is the test question. The exceptions—the great men who have defied all opposition and risen to place and position, (one in ten thousand) the few who are born to fortune, and who have their minds cultivated to the utmost—cannot be the rule. Give us the poor boys of the poorest hovels—give us the ragged apprentices in any of our cities, give us the sons and daughters of the toiling craftsman, or the stunted farmer, and let us know how it fares with them, how they are cared for, whether the social sunlight by which the mountain-tops are lit up, rests also upon the low places, and we will tell you whether the State has done, and is doing, its whole duty.

The South, Kentucky included, is fearfully in the back ground, if judged by this test. We have furnished statistics frequently to show this, and can do so to the cause? Why should

should Massachusetts be so much in advance of South Carolina? Why should New York surpass Kentucky? Cool heads in saying, frankly and above board, that Slavery alone is the cause. Hear what one of the strong minds of the country declares on the subject:

"The effect on the intellectual, moral and religious condition of the slave is easily understood. He is only continued in a state of barbarism, from the civilization of mankind in this age. His mind, conscience, soul—all his nobler powers must be kept in a state of inferior development, otherwise he will not be a slave in the nineteenth century, and in the United States. In comparison with the intellectual culture of their masters the slaves are a mass of barbarians, still more emphatically, when compared with the free institutions of the North; they are Savages. This is not a mere matter of inference, the fact is substantiated by the notorious testimony of slave-holders themselves. In 1834, the Free Press of South Carolina and Georgia reported that the slaves 'may justly be considered the Heathen of this country, and will bear comparison with the Heathen in any part of the world.' They are described as 'ignorant of the Gospel, and ever will be under the present state of things.' 'In all the slave States,' says the Synod, 'there are not twelve men exclusively devoted to the religious instruction of the Negroes.' Of the regular ministers 'but a very small portion pay any attention to them.' 'We know of but five churches in the slave-holding States built exclusively for their use,' and 'there is not sufficient room for them in the white churches for their accommodation.' 'They are unable to read, as custom, or law, and generally both, prohibit their instruction. They have no Bible—no family altar; and when in affliction, sickness, or death, they have no minister to address to them the consolations of the Gospel, nor to bury them with solemn and appropriate services.' 'They may sometimes be petted and caressed as children and toys, they are never treated as men.'"

"Heathens," says another Southern authority, "is the real name of the slave States in the South Sea Islands." 'Chastity is no virtue among them (the slaves); its violation neither injures female character in their own estimation nor the respectability of their masters. It is no marriage recognized by the State or Church as legal and permanent between slaves; where the female slave is wholly in her master's power—how can it be otherwise? Said the Roman proverb, 'Nothing is unlawful for the master to his slave.'"

"In 1840, in the fifteen slave States and territories, there were at the various primary schools 301,358 scholars; at the various primary schools of the Free States, 1,686,928. The State of Ohio alone had 218,609 scholars at her primary schools, 17,534 more than all the fifteen slave States. South Carolina had 12,520 scholars and the State of Maryland 17,355. New York alone had 302,367."

"In the higher schools there were in the South 35,335 scholars at the public charge; in the Free States, in the North, 432,388 similar scholars. Virginia, the largest of the slave States, had 9,791 such scholars; Rhode Island, the smallest of the free States 10,749. Massachusetts alone had 158,351, more than four times as many as all the slave States."

"In the slave States at academies and grammar-schools, there were 52,906 scholars; in the free States, 97,174. But the difference in numbers here does not represent the difference of fact, for the most of the academies and grammar-schools of the South are inferior to the schools at public charge of the North; far inferior to the better portion of the Northern 'District Schools.'"

"In the slave States there are at the various Colleges in the South, 7,106 pupils, and in the Free States, 8,977. Here, too, the figures fail to indicate the actual difference in the numbers of such as receive a superior education; for the greater part of the colleges in the South are inferior to the colleges of the North, and the colleges of the South are more inferior to the better Academies and High Schools of the North."

"In the libraries of all the Universities and Colleges of the South there are 225,416 volumes; in the Free States, 1,204,597. The libraries of the Theological schools of the South contain 22,800 volumes; those of the North, 102,080."

"In the Slave States there are 1,368,325 free white children between the ages of five and twenty; in the Free States, 3,536,639 children. In the Slave States, at schools and colleges, there are 301,173 pupils; in the Free States, 2,312,444 pupils, at schools and colleges. Thus, in the Slave States, out of twenty-five free children between five and twenty, there are not quite five at any school or college; while out of twenty-five such children in the Free States, there are more than fifteen at school or college."

"In the Slave States, of the free white population that is over twenty years of age, there is almost one-tenth part that are unable to read and write; while in the Free States, there is not quite one in one hundred and fifty-six who is deficient to that degree."

"It is but fair to infer that at least one-third of the adults of South Carolina, if not one-half, are unable to read and write. In the State of Ohio, in 1840, there was not one in one hundred and fifty-six who is deficient to that degree."

"In 1840 there were 697,597 slaves in the Union; in 1840, 2,487,355. At the present day their number probably is not far from 3,000,000. In 1840, Mr. Gerry estimated their value at \$10,000,000; in 1840 Mr. Clay fixed it at \$12,000,000. They were owned by a population of perhaps about 300,000 persons, and represented by about 100,000 voters."

Ought this to be so? If it be true—and who doubts it? If it be true, that only three hundred thousand persons own slaves in the South, and that this is the cause—not merely of the educational difference between the North and the South—but of the ignorance of the poorer classes among us, as men, having a just regard to our own, and the true interests of our fellow-men, as patriots, looking to the present and lasting welfare of the public—what is the immediate and commanding duty of the State? It is to root out this source of oppression. It is to tear away the accursed shroud which veils more than half the cruel mind of the State in hopeless ignorance. Talk of tyranny—point to despotism as a sign of cruelty—there is no tyranny so galling—there can be no despotism so goading and grinding, as that of a free State, which has engraved on its banner the insignia of freedom, and which yet crushes its poorer sons and daughters in the thickest gloom of an unrelieved blindness."

What, then, shall Kentucky do? Let her lead gloriously in the right path! Let her say 'every day due to Education, and held in trust for this sacred object, shall be truly and sacredly applied. We see the difficulties before us; we know the cause of them; we will try to reach them; but meantime we will do all we can to put Bible and Constitution in the hands of reading voters—to build school houses so that our richest inheritance, our poor boys and girls, may learn to read and write.' This would be language worthy of her. This would be a course suited to the highest character. And where is any son of hers who will oppose? Where the Kentuckian, who honors the name, who loves freedom, who bows before the sacred truths of the gospel, who would be a man himself, and help make other men, who does not cordially, heartily, exclaim—LET KENTUCKY GO TO DAMN!

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Large and Liberal.

Gen. Lanza offered the following resolutions in the Texas Legislature:

"A joint resolution, protesting against the relinquishment to Mexico of the country South and West of the Rio Grande, conquered by and in possession of the United States. Read first time."

"A joint resolution, respecting the incorporation of a portion of the conquered Provinces or States of the Republic of Mexico into the State of Texas, with the consent of the United States, and respecting a cession of a portion of the Northern part of Texas to the United States. Read first time."

Model this! Why, our young sister State, with her 140,000 people, makes brave suggestions! But she is a favorite of Uncle Sam; not telling what he will do or say. She means, at least to give him a chance of refusing her.

The Journal of Commerce says, that the colored people of New York are about sending out persons to Liberia to ascertain its condition, with the intention of making a great move if their report be favorable. This is a good move.

Mrs. Nutts—The Barber's Chair. Douglas Jerrald makes a sharp "un" out of Mrs. Nutts. She has no notion of your liberal men—your progressives—your reformers. None such ought to have wives and children. She doesn't like the Jews a bit, and never heard of Luther. And does not she make a strong case! Hear her, in her husband's barber shop, as she hears or chats with customers:

Sluggo. In course, Mr. Nutts, after this session of Parliament you'll shave for a ha'penny?

Mrs. Nutts. (From back parlour). A ha'penny! With soap at its present price! Besides the razor, you'll want a comb! Not if I know my husband, Mr. Sluggo!

Sluggo. Oh, you must indeed, Mrs. Nutts. You must go with the spirit of the times. Mrs. Nutts. I'm tired 'n' hearing of it. It's a spirit of the times, I'm sure this is a bad time, but there was no talk of spirit at all. It's a spirit, as I told Nutts last night, as is leading us all to ruin.

Mrs. Nutts. (From back parlour). A ha'penny! With soap at its present price! Besides the razor, you'll want a comb! Not if I know my husband, Mr. Sluggo!

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If Gen. Cass's interpretation of the Constitution be the true one, our Government has gone on in constant and what is more extraordinary, in unqualified violation of its provisions from the very day it went into force.

There is an absurdity involved in Gen. Cass's constitution which he has not noticed. It admits that the Federal Government has a right, under the Constitution, to dispose of the territories as it pleases—it may sell them to Great Britain, to Russia, to China. This is a far greater stretch of power than to legislate for their inhabitants. It implies an absolute sovereignty; and if it can be done from the general terms used by the Constitution, it is preposterous to deny that the same clause, conferring this complete supremacy, does not also confer and imply a power of legislation.

We are sorry to see that General Cass, in this question of the prohibition of Slavery, has been slipping from stage to stage in a very odd manner. He was first a friend of the Wilmot Provision; then he thought of the Wilmot Provision, that is to say, the exclusion of Slavery from the new territory, perfectly right in principle, but only premature in time; now he holds that Congress has no right to prohibit Slavery in the territories.

The editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer (Democratic) made a personal application to the Post Master General for the Post Office Printing, and was refused. The following is the conclusion of the interview as he gives it:

"Judge my surprise, when his august Majesty informed me, that the PLAIN DEALER, was a 'Wilmot Provision Paper,'—that he had just received a copy of it, sent him by the Post Master General, in which he had inserted an article marked, (i. e. BLACK LINES drawn around it), which, he said, took very strong grounds in favor of that doctrine!"

A few days after this, I repaired again to the old man, and asked if any decision had been made in regard to said printing. Mr. Johnson said that, 'no decision had as yet been made, that he expected a communication from the day after tomorrow, on the subject of printing precisely, my position on the Wilmot Provision.'"

The conclusion of the matter is thus recorded: "certain it is, I did not get the printing; certain it is, I did not get the printing."

Where is this to end? If we have a Wilmot Provision Post Master General, the question then will be—'are you opposed to slavery?' When our Government undertakes to regulate private judgment, it plays the part of a tyrant, and the people will not submit to such tyranny.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, DECEMBER 28, 1847.

Sealed proposals will be received at this office up to 12 o'clock on the 1st of January, 1848, for the contract, to the highest bidder of the privilege of selling tobacco and cigars, and also for the manufacture of playing cards for the month of January, February, and March next.

By order of Brig. Gen. TROTSKY.
W. S. H. BROOKS, A. A. G.

The close of General Scott's last general order reads:—

10.—The tobacco, playing card, and stamped paper rents, will be placed for three, six, or twelve months, under contract with the highest bidder, respectively, for the several States; the State and Federal District of Mexico being considered as one lot. The offers, or bids for these rents, within each State, or any one of them, are invited. They will be sent in as early as possible, sealed, to the headquarters of Commanding General Scott, at the City of Mexico, and the State of Mexico. For the two latter, the offers or bids will be addressed to the general-in-chief."

11.—Further details of the execution of the foregoing system of government and revenue will soon be given in general orders.

By command of H. L. SCOTT, A. A. G.

Gov. Whitcomb's Message deals in general politics, and warmly defends the war. We do not think it can be commended. For a Governor to talk of frightening the nations of the earth "inferentially," of Mexico being "used up," &c., &c., and to assign these reasons why we should carry on the war and annex more territory, does not seem to us correct in taste or sound in morals. The condition of the State is prosperous:

The State indebtedness is \$11,065,000, and no interest has been paid thereon since 1841, except under the law of last winter. The amount payable semi-annually is \$554,770, for which payment in future provision has been made.

The ordinary expenses of the government the last fiscal year were \$700,767.

The number of polls returned for 1847, are 129,557, an increase of 2,762 over the preceding year.

The assessment for 1847 for State purposes, is \$450,674, and for county, township, road and school purposes \$562,671. 29. Add to these the delinquencies of former years \$127,358 47, and the value of the delinquencies for 1847, is \$1,100,694 44.

The value of the taxable property in 1847, was \$124,558,060.

The amount of revenue paid into the Treasury for the fiscal year, is \$2,638,347. 07 being \$68,456 07 over that of the previous year.

The Governor says, there are glaring imperfections in their revenue system, and he specifies a large amount of the invisible wealth of the country, which as corporations and individuals, stock, cash on hand or at interest, and the more portable and valuable kinds of personal property, &c., is not found on the assessment rolls; to which allusion is made, I feel to be prompted by the consideration of the Legislature to these "glaring evils."

Massachusetts.
Gov. Briggs's Message is written with great clearness and ability. He discusses the war, &c. If we have room we shall give his views hereafter. The finances of Massachusetts are in the best condition.

The receipts during 1847, including \$8,649 of a balance on hand, on the 1st day of that year, amount to \$508,990; the expenditures to \$478,755; leaving a balance in Treasury \$30,235.

The State's debt was only \$147,300, being for its stock in the Western Railroad, which is a valuable and productive investment. Its shares, taken at 100, are now worth 104. The State has become secure for certain Corporations, but it also took care to prevent even the possibility of public loss.

It has a Western Railroad Sinking Fund of \$466,400; a School Fund of \$345,200; and some others. In Maine, it was 2,300,000 acres of land, the revenue from which is to be given in aid of the Public Schools.

There is no State tax imposed upon the people, because there is no need of it.

Let the prudent management, public and private, Massachusetts and Connecticut, the result of popular Government with an educated constituency, actuated by correct principles, be compared with repudiation and bankruptcy in Michigan, Illinois, &c., where the advantage of public instruction and representative Government are less known and appreciated. Yet Illinois is the richest State in the Union, as far as natural wealth and resources are concerned.

can be applied annually to the public debt, he is paying the interest, and that, if proper care and wisdom be manifested in public affairs, it may be increased to one million. He thinks over sixteen millions of the debt may be easily paid in twelve years.

A free laboring population can work wonders!

New York.
The Legislature of this State has spoken very decidedly against the extension of slavery.

The General Assembly passed the following resolution by a hundred and seven to five:—

Resolved, (if the Senate concur,) That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested to use their best efforts to insert into any act or ordinance relating to any or all such provisional or territorial government or governments, a fundamental article or provision which shall provide, declare and guarantee that slavery or involuntary servitude, except a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been first duly convicted, shall be prohibited therein, so long as the same remain a Territory.

The Senate adopted the resolution by a vote of twenty-five to one! This is remarkable unanimity, and proves that the people of that State are in earnest on the subject.

The resolution above was introduced by Mr. MARTIN, a personal and political friend of the late SILAS WRIGHT.

A Hard Utilitarian.
A man of substance—that is, possessing a heavy purse, and a thick head—happening to be present, when some one showed an article that once belonged to Edmund Burke, asked "who is he?" The reply was—"One of the great men of another country." "Never heard of him," said the money-lover—"wouldn't give a fig for a name that would not pass a note in bank—Mine! do that." "Yes," was the rejoinder, "you're well past where Edmund Burke's would not, that's certain."

Charles M. Clay's Reception at Mexico.
Pursuant to previous notice, a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Madison county was held at the court-house in Richmond on the 34 day of January, 1848.

On motion, James M. Shackelford was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

Waller Chenuault, Esq., submitted the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted by Col. W. H. Caperton in a few appropriate and happy remarks, and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Resolved: That this meeting hereby invites Capt. Clay to visit the county of Madison and tender him a public reception, and that Waller Chenuault, Esq., Col. W. H. Caperton, Col. W. Holloway, Curtis F. Burnam Esq., and Gen. John Tribble be appointed a committee to inform Capt. Clay of this invitation, and ascertain the day it will be convenient to him to visit his fellow citizens of Madison in the Town of Richmond.

Resolved, That said committee give public notice of the day appointed for the reception, and

